

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

The annexed letter from Surgeon Kane to Mr. Henry Grinnell will be interesting as giving the opinion of a competent observer in regard to the question of Sir John Franklin's position:

RENSSELAER, near PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1851.

My dear Sir: You ask me whether I have changed the views I expressed to you when we parted in May of last year as to the fate and actual position of Sir John Franklin's party, and you remind me that I then thought the northward passage, by Wellington Channel as the one which they had most probably taken.

I have seen nothing since to change this opinion, but many things to confirm it. You know that Sir John's instructions gave him the alternative of this course, after making a decided effort to proceed to the southward and westward from the neighborhood of Cape Walker, and I need not renew to you the arguments that have demonstrated his purpose to avail himself of his discretion.

Now our own observation, as well as all the information which we have derived from other sources, makes it seem an almost unvarying fact that the ice holds much longer in those parts of the Sound, which are to the West and South of Wellington Channel than in the Channel itself. I should think it quite safe to say that, under ordinary circumstances, the navigation, though obstructed and difficult, would be practicable some weeks earlier by the northern than the western route. It seemed to me, too, very nearly demonstrable from ascertained facts that the earlier leads occur on the eastern side of Wellington Channel. The currents from the pole toward the equator are modified of course, by the rotary movement of the earth, and our own experience during our long drift down the western shore of Baffin's Bay confirmed the representations of all the whalers we met, that in the first months of the season the greater masses of polar ice track their way along the western coasts, leaving the eastern comparatively free.

The position of Franklin's party in the winter of 1845-6 has now been definitely ascertained. It was in the Cove between Cape Riley and the so-called Beechey Island, which is in fact, a peninsula forming the South-eastern Cape of Wellington Channel. His encampment occupied the narrow strip of low land between Lancaster sound and this Channel, and commanded a full view of the ice-clad waters of both. The traces of his parties continued northwardly. We even discovered the unmistakable marks of sledges extending to the North. These were, in one place, well defined on the shingle limestone, and farther on, in the hardened snow of former years. There can be no doubt, then, either that Sir John did in fact proceed north, from his first wintering ground, or that at least, he made observations in that direction to a considerable, and we do not know how great a distance.

So much for deduction from the immediate results of your expedition, jointly with the British exploring parties.—I say jointly, for you are aware that all moved together, and that the discoveries at and near Cape Riley were made at the same time by gentlemen of both nations.

Whether Sir John Franklin had penetrated to the southward and westward, before making harbor at this point is a question of minor importance. We know that he wintered near the great channel, and from what all the world knows of the character of Sir John it is not in the slightest degree probable that he would rest at Beechey after the ice had opened along the eastern shores of Wellington Inlet, in the mere hope of being able to penetrate to the south and west at some later period. If the ice did become detached he would avail himself of the earliest leads even if he was resolved to return on his track when the season should be more advanced, in order then to push his way toward Cape Walker. He certainly did leave his quarters early in 1846, and there are some marks which might support the idea that he did so somewhat hastily, as if availing himself of an unexpected pathway. If there are no traces of him in the direction of Cape Walker, as there are none of later date than 1845-6 in the neighborhood of Beechey, the inference seems to me irresistible that he passed northward by Wellington Channel, and that he did not return.

He might be able to do so without having encountered any fatal accident. We were ourselves, as you know, caught nearly opposite poor Franklin's first sojourn, and borne northward in the ice for fifteen days, directly against the theoretical currents, and with great rapidity. We saw at this time high and dome-like ranges of land trending north-westwardly ahead of us in the latitude of 76 deg., at least and probably much farther. The axis of Polar drift must then be more or less from the north-west, and must have its seats of greatest ice accumulation along the northern coast of what we call Cornwallis's Island. In the region north and west of this, which for aught we know may be open always, and which must be open sometimes, as we know, a continuance of our drift, for a few days longer would have carried the American Squadron; and it is not difficult to imagine that Sir John, if caught in the ice of Wellington Channel, may have been impelled by a like cause in the same direction; as certainly if he was not so caught he would follow the open water. I should say that he is now to be sought for north and west of Cornwallis's Island.

As to the chance of the destruction of his party by the casualties of ice, the return of our own party, after something more than the usual share of them, is the only fact that I can add to what we knew when we set out. The hazards from cold and privation of food may be almost looked upon as subordinate. The snow-bur, the fire and light from the moss-lamp fed with blubber, the seal, the narwhal, the white whale, and occasionally abundant stores of migratory birds, would sustain vigorous life. The scurvy, the worst visitation of explorers deprived of permanent quarters, is more rare in the depths of a Polar Winter than in the milder weather of a moist Summer; and our two little vessels encountered both seasons without losing a man.

My impressions are, I think, sufficiently definite as to the manner in which such an expedition should proceed with reference to its great object, but I will not inflict upon you a longer letter upon topics which it has not been within my official sphere to consider, and on which my friends, the officers with whom I have associated, are better qualified to decide than myself.

I am, dear sir, very truly yours,
E. K. KANE,
P. A. Surgeon U. S. N.
H. GRINNELL, Esq. N. Y.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.

HALIFAX, Oct. 15. The steamship America from Liverpool, with dates to the fourth inst., arrived this day at 6 P. M. She brings 108 passengers.

The Franklin arrived at Southampton on the morning of the 2nd inst.

A large business was doing. Floating cargoes of Indian Corn had advanced. Beef and Pork in better request, but prices were unchanged. No transactions reported in American rice. The state of trade in Manchester was flat and prices for good yarns lower.

London money and stock markets are inactive; and with slight advance in English funds.

News from the Continent of little importance. Public mind in England concentrates upon the approaching close of the Exhibition. The premiums were to be awarded on the 15th inst.

News which continues to arrive from Australia, confirms the previous reports in regard to the extent and richness of the Gold mines.

EDITOR ARRESTED.—Great excitement in Liverpool in consequence of the arrest of Mr. Whalson, editor of the Liverpool Journal, by a County Judge, for a fancied insult. The Judge ordered his immediate arrest without issuing a warrant, which however he was subsequently compelled to do.

MUTINY.—The seamen of the American ship Columbia had mutinied at Liverpool. They were fined and imprisoned.

Mr. Lawrence, the American Minister was in Dublin, where he was receiving great attention from the City Authorities, and private individuals.

Kossuth has been expected in London up to the 15th inst., but intelligence had been received that the French authorities had refused to give him permission to pass through their territory from Marseilles! He therefore sailed direct for U. S. on the Mississippi. The French authorities gave as a reason for their refusal that they acted in accordance with a request of Austria and Russia.

UTICA, Oct. 11.

Judge Gridley has sentenced H. B. Conklin to be hung on the 21st of Nov. Daniel Butterfield another one of the parties who was indicted, has put his trial over till next March. There were six new bills found for arson. Perkins will be tried for murder on Tuesday. Conklin was deeply affected when the sentence was pronounced on him.

EASTON, Pa. Oct. 10.

J. A. Dunlap, editor of the Easton Sentinel, died this morning at 11 o'clock, after a severe and protracted illness.

DETROIT, Oct. 11.

The flags of the shipping in harbor are at half-mast for the death of a sailor who fell from the masthead of a vessel yesterday, killing him instantly.

NEW YORK, Oct. 10.

The steamer Baltic sailed at noon to-day, with 82 passengers and \$280,000 in specie.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 10.

Considerable excitement exists in Cumberland, on account of the failure of the Maryland Mining Co. The workmen had blocked up the road to the mines, and refused to let the loaded cars pass out. There is a Bank panic here. Com. Sloat has been appointed President of the board to select a location for a dockyard on the Pacific.

Ten thousand dollars were found in the dead letter Office at Washington in the last quarter.

The Charleston Mercury attributes the result of the Georgia election to federal patronage and cajolery.

The Charleston News publishes a letter from Ex-Vice President Dallas, dated at the end of July, containing a distinct admission of the failure of the Compromise measures, and a proposition to settle the slavery question once for all by an amendment to the Constitution.

NORFOLK, Oct. 10.

Letters from on board the U. S. S. Vandalia, at Valparaiso, say that the whole crew had suffered immensely from fever. Sixty men were down at one time, and even so much reduced as hardly to be able to walk about.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. 9.

George M. Harvey, who has heretofore borne a good character, has been arrested and committed to jail for passing counterfeit money, considerable quantities of which were found on his person.

Zenas Cook, of Hadley formerly sustaining a high character for integrity, has been detected in forgeries to the amount of several thousand dollars, and has absconded. The Northampton bank is the principle sufferer.

MONTPELIER, Oct. 10.

Hon. E. K. Williams was yesterday inaugurated as Governor of New Hampshire. The State officers, as well as both branches of the Legislature, are whigs.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.

The Republic publishes the following letter from Col. Crittenden to Atty-Gen. Crittenden, declaring "in a few minutes some fifty of us may be shot. I have been with Lopez, and you will do me the justice to believe my motives were good. I was deceived by Lopez. He, as well as the public press, assured me that the Island was in a state of prosperous revolution. I am compelled to finish writing. At 1 o'clock I will die like a man."

MEXICO.—The President has issued orders to the military commanders on the frontiers, to prevent the invasion of Mexico by American citizens, but the intelligence by later advices show that few are engaged in it.

Dr. Kinkel has arrived in Washington, and had an interview with the President.

BOSTON, Oct. 9.

Mr. W. F. Wade, of Ipswich, has left for Prince Edward's Island, to look after the interests of the underwriters of fishing and other vessels lost in the late gale.

The following is an extract from a letter dated Souris, Sept. 17th:

"On the 1st of Sept. a fleet of 63 American and 79 British mackerel fishing vessels anchored in the Souris roads. On the 15th we were visited by a fleet of 219 fishermen.

"There are about 400 sail of British and American vessels fishing for mackerel on the coast of this island, the mouth of the Magdalen Bay de Chaleur and Cape Breton, North shore."

The great gale, mentioned yesterday, is supposed to have occurred on the 21st.

The Abolition Convention at Buffalo, on the 18th nominated Gerritt Smith, of N. Y. for the Presidency, and Charles Durkee, of Wisconsin, for the Vice Presidency.

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

HENRY PENNOYER, EDITOR.
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN.
WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCT. 22, 1851.

For Governor,

ROBERT MCLELLAND.
For Lieutenant Governor,
CALVIN BRITAIN.

The election news from Pennsylvania and Ohio, comes in right. The democratic candidate for Governor, BIGLER, of Pennsylvania, and Wood, of Ohio, are both elected by very decisive majorities. Such news at this time is cheering to the democracy of other States.—Ohio has heretofore, been rent by factions; enough have at last wheeled into the democratic ranks, to place Ohio on the right ground—in favor of the Union. Old Pennsylvania has come back to her first love, and promises to make atonement for the past, in upsetting and undoing the curse that was entailed by her upon the Union, in placing the present party in power. With Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, in the democratic ranks, all will be right—the Union safe.

On Monday last, complaint was made before Justice PARKS, of one Henry Gardiner, for an attempt to commit a rape upon Mrs. Cornelia O. Davis, a married lady. A warrant was issued—defendant arrested and brought into court by Sheriff SCOTT. The complaint was read to defendant by the examining magistrate; he was then asked to plead to the complaint.—Defendant replied, that he should not plead to that complaint, and would do nothing about it; but he would acknowledge that he was guilty of adultery, and that he had been guilty several times, during the past year, and that they might try him for that, if they could. Gardiner appeared to think that by making this acknowledgement, it would shield him from the punishment of the greater crime of rape. The court entered a plea of not guilty to the complaint. The magistrate continued the case, on motion of defendant, to this day, 5 o'clock P. M.; at which time he will be brought forward to hear the evidence against him. In the meantime the husband has made a complaint for adultery, based upon the confession of Gardiner.

EDWARD WILTON, OR EARLY DAYS IN MICHIGAN.—We have just arisen from a re-perusal of this Historical Tale, which was first published in numbers, in the Detroit Tribune, last year; and we can assure the fair authoress that not a few copies of this neatly printed book would find a ready sale in this remote corner of Michigan, if sent to our care. This we say for the benefit of the talented authoress and the reading community, and not for our own. But to the work itself. The masterly manner in which Indian character, in all its ruling passions is depicted, is worthy of the pen of a Cooper. The parental affection of "Nadesha," the devoted love of "Springing Fawn" and the restless spirit of revenge controlling the old chief "Sagito," are as true to nature, as any in the best works of the talented author of the "Spy" and "Pioneer." Since he has gone to the spirit land, to meet those noble chieftains, whom his gifted pen has immortalized, may his mantle fall upon our fair "FANNY," and the wide field of Indian romance be explored for new treasures, by this gifted writer.

We are informed that the late storms have carried into the Lake, the point or bluff, at the mouth of the river, taking away acres of sand where the Range Lights stood. The channel will be designated by a light ranging with the Light-house, for the remainder of the season.

Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo papers, will please notice the above.

PLANK ROAD MEETING.—The citizens of this County are requested to meet at the Court-house in this village on Saturday (to-morrow) evening, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of considering the subject of a Plank Road to Kalamazoo (or some other and better place.) Important matters will come before the meeting.—Let every man attend. [Allegan Record.]

We would advise the people of Allegan to build a plank road to the "better place," as we fear that very few of them will ever get there, unless there is some other route than the "Strait and narrow way" opened for them.

We learn that the winter term of the school in this village, is to commence on Monday next, under the charge of Mr. EVERETT and Lady, of Grand Rapids.

The October No. of the Ladies Keepsake is received. It is embellished with a fine Mezzotint engraving of "Martha," the sister of Mary and Lazarus. Its contents are, as usual of an instructive and interesting character.

We shall hereafter claim Ohio as a sound democratic State. She voted for Cass and Butler in 1848, and has now twice elected that staunch and true democrat, Judge Wood, to the Gubernatorial Chair. She has shown her good will in just the way we like. "Faith without works is dead." Her works are following her. We welcome her most cordially into the old democratic fold! [Det. Free Press.]

Col. Langdon, editor of the Mobile Advertiser, has been appointed Consul at Havana, in lieu of Owen.

The Savannah Republican says there was considerable frost in the up country, on the night of the 28th. Not sufficient, however, to injure the cotton crops. The crops in the middle portion of the State are represented as being quite unpromising.

The Grand River Valley Plank Road.

Mr. EDITOR:—I have been somewhat surprised to see by the Grand Rapids and Ionia papers, that the good people of those places are giving their influence and capital, to help build Central Railroad plugs, instead of combining their forces, and expending what dimes they have to spare, in the construction of the Valley road. Is the city of Grand Rapids prepared to see Kalamazoo their only gate of communication with the Eastern markets? If so, her merchants must make up their faces to see Kalamazoo buy the wool of Grand River country, and the largest share of the wheat from the country between them and the river road.—This plank road, if completed, is intended to cut off all prospect of the construction of an independent line across the State. Else, why do the Central Railroad Company take such an interest in this project? Kalamazoo has complained heretofore most bitterly of this soulless corporation, as it has been called; but now, it seems, a treaty has been concluded between the high contracting powers, and linked by bonds of loving fellowship; they propose a great work for the benefit of—the Michigan Central Railroad Company. For our part, we have no wish at present, to see the Grand River Valley or any portion of it, clasped in the iron embrace of this company. If we can succeed in getting the valley line through, they are welcome to the field as competitors; but we hope no Grand River man will aid them to establish themselves in a monopoly of the most profitable carrying trade of the Valley. It is evident enough from an inspection of the map of Michigan, that if by any means the carrying trade of Grand Rapids can be directed into a new channel, and the principal inducement to construct the Valley Road is removed—a new interest is created, and a division made which will prevent the construction of the Valley Road for many years.

Let our friends of Grand Rapids and Ionia look at this matter in its true light, and if they wish to invest money in plank roads, push East or West on the Valley line. A road can be built from Grand Rapids to Lansing, as easily as two roads to the Central Railroad; one from Ionia and one from Grand Rapids.

The good people of Grand Haven are somewhat amused at some of the magnificent speculations with regard to a grand diversion of the lumber trade of Grand River to—Kalamazoo. Contrast the capacity of our present market, Chicago and the entire Illinois Valley, with Kalamazoo! How many cargoes per week would the Kalamazoo market consume? It would also excite some surprise among our forwarding merchants, to see the entire importing business of Grand River, directed to another channel. We wonder if some people have any idea of the business done at the mouth of Grand River? [A looker on, in Denmark.]

DEATH OF JUDGE GOODRICH.—We are pained to announce the decease of the Hon. John S. Goodrich, of Lapeer, one of the Justices elect of the Supreme Court of this State, at his lodgings, at the Michigan Exchange in this city, on Wednesday evening last. His illness although severe had been of comparatively short duration, and his case was not, until a few days since considered dangerous.

This lamented gentleman was elected by the people of the third circuit, a Judge of our Supreme Court, under the new constitution, in May last, and if he had survived, would have entered upon the duties of his high station in January next. Although comparatively a young man, he was noted for his habits of close and unwearied industry and application, and the clear sighted apprehension with which he grappled the most intricate legal questions. His standing at the bar in the Northern Circuit, was a highly respectable one, and his integrity of character, and courteous and gentlemanly bearing, had won for him the general respect of the community.

At an age when his faculties were in full development, and from a position which was just opening before him a career of high and honorable usefulness, he has suddenly fallen before the shafts of the "Insatiate Archer," whose summons comes alike to all. [Det. Free Press.]

At the last meeting of the I. O. O. F., Grand Lodge of the U. S., prior to that which has just adjourned in Baltimore, a select committee was appointed, of which M. Colfax, of Indiana was president, to prepare an appropriate honorary degree to be conferred on wives of scarlet degree members of the Order in good standing.—Such a degree was reported by Mr. Colfax last week, and it is understood to have caused considerable debate. The representatives of the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment of Northern New York were unanimously for it. Those from Southern New York were against it. A majority of those from the Northwest were for it. It was, however on Saturday, finally adopted by a vote of 47 to 37. We understand that those receiving it will be known as "The daughters of Rebecca." The badge proposed will be green and scarlet.

PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO.—It is safe to assert that the result in these two States gives to the democracy in 1852, about 70 electoral votes. It is a good start. Let the democracy of Michigan "roll on the ball." It should stimulate them to renewed and increasing exertions. There can be no reasonable doubt that Ohio and Pennsylvania will vote for the democratic national nominees, in 1852. The battle in both States has been a contested one, and principle has triumphed over fact. It is an old saying that "as goes the Keystone State, so goes the Union."

If Pennsylvania and Ohio cast their electoral votes for the democratic nominees next year, we will answer for the general result. Then democrats of Michigan, push on the democratic column. Roll up your sleeves and go to work in the good old fashioned way, and you will achieve a victory next month, unparalleled in the annals of our State. [Det. Free Press.]

Gen. Houston authorizes the Union to declare that the affair of Donaldson is fictitious.

FAST SAILING.—The clipper ship Flying Cloud Capt. Cressy, has made the quickest trip on record to San Francisco. She left this port on the 2d of June, at 6 P. M., and arrived at San Francisco on the 31st of Aug., thus making the passage in the unprecedented short period of eighty-nine days. She made Cape Horn in 50 days, and the line (Pacific) in 71 days. Her run from Cape Horn to San Francisco was made in 39 days. Her best run in 24 hours was 374 miles, the greatest run ever made by a sea-going vessel, averaging 15½ miles per hour. While making this run, she was carrying top-gallant sails with the wind one point forward of the beam.

She run in three days 992 miles. On one occasion, during a squall, 17 knots of line were found insufficient to measure her speed; 40 miles was her shortest run in 24 hours. When 10 days out, she sprung her mainmast head, rendering the mast very tender the rest of the voyage. The Flying Cloud was built by Mr. Donald McKay, of East-Boston, and owned by Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co., of this city. [N. Y. Tribune.]

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.

The steamer Atlantic arrived at 6½ o'clock this morning, bringing 40 passengers.

The Roman Catholic Defence Association had just commenced its action, by issuing an Ordinance to the Catholics of the Kingdom, declaring hostility to the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, and the ecclesiastical policy of the government generally, and calling upon the whole Catholic population to unite in a measure against both.

The address is signed by Dr. Cullen, Catholic prelate of Ireland, and Mr. Keogh, Secretary of the Defence Association, acting in behalf of 38 prelates, 22 peers, 20 baronets, 23 members of Parliament, 150 justices of the peace, and 70,000 clergymen and laymen of the United Kingdom.

The Potatoe Crop in Ireland promises less unfavorably than had been feared.

On Sunday, Sept. 28th, the Submarine Telegraph was brought into successful operation between the French and English coasts, after several narrow escapes from failure, and a great deal of difficulty and labor.

The closing of the Exhibition remains fixed for the 11th inst., and the Commissioners, on the 26th ult., notified Fox & Henderson of their intention to have the building removed.

PRINTERS' CELEBRATION.—At a meeting of the Printers of the City of Detroit, held at the Counting Room of the Free Press, on Saturday evening, Oct. 11, 1851, in pursuance of a call numerously signed, to take into consideration the propriety of celebrating the birth-day of Benjamin Franklin, the world's honored Printer, Richard Starkey was called to the Chair, and Daniel Munger was appointed Secretary.

On motion it was Resolved, That the Printers of Detroit will hold a celebration on the 17th day of January, 1852, in this City, in commemoration of the event of the birth-day of Benjamin Franklin, the Patriot and Printer.

On motion it was Resolved, That the Chair appoint a committee of five to correspond with the Printers of the North West, extending to them an invitation to be present on the occasion, and solicit such suggestions from them, as to the mode and manner of getting up and conducting such celebration, as they may think proper.

The Chair appointed as said committee John H. Harmon, Rufus Hosmer, Jacob Barnes, F. B. Way and Casper Butz.

On motion, it was Resolved, That the Committee have power to call other meetings for completion of arrangements for the celebration.

On motion, a request was extended to the Hon. John N. Ingersoll to deliver an address to the assemblage on the event of the celebration.

On motion, it was Resolved, That the conductors of Daily and Weekly papers in the City of Detroit, and the entire North Western country, be requested to publish these proceedings; when the meeting adjourned. RICHARD STARKEY, Ch'n. DANIEL MUNGER, Sec'y.

HUNGARIANS.—Some forty of the Hungarians recently arrived in this city, have taken a job on the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, about 4 miles from town.

It was not deemed prudent for the whole company to proceed to New Buda, this fall, and, as some of them were not provided with suitable clothing for the approaching winter, some plan like that they have adopted, seemed necessary.

This willingness thus promptly to help themselves, speaks much in their favor, and a week's work will win for them more, and better friends, than months of "flourishing." [Chicago Journal, 14th inst.]

LOSS OF THE MONTICELLO.—We regret to learn that the fears relative to this propeller have been realized.

From passengers we learn that it was discovered that the Monticello had sprung a leak, when midway between Ontonagon and Eagle Harbor, on Lake Superior.

It was not at first believed to be serious, but as the water was gaining on the pumps, she was run into shore above the latter harbor.

The passengers and crew were all saved, but the boat is a wreck—the engine only can be saved. The freight was copper, much of which was thrown overboard, we learn.

The Monticello is owned by Col. McKnight. We have not heard the amount of insurance, but we are told it will nearly cover the loss.

FRANKLIN'S BIRTH-DAY.—The Printers of Detroit are about to take measures for the proper and spirited celebration of the Birth-day of the illustrious sage, who "brought lightning from the skies," and added additional lustre to the fame of his country as a Printer, a statesman and patriot. [Free Press.]

TRIAL OF SAFES.—One of Davidson's Safes underwent a "fiery trial" of three hours yesterday. The furnace was up to a white heat. One of Herring's was in the same fire. Davidson's was unscathed—the paper inside as cold as if it had been surrounded by an ice berg instead of a fiery furnace. The papers in Herring's were also unscathed, but warm. [Albany Journal, 9th inst.]

The Gardiner (Me.) Transcript says the crop of winter wheat in that State, this season, will yield over one million bushels—far exceeding the wheat crop of any preceding year.